

stamps to make it work. I met her because she thanked me for opposing this bill. As she told me, There are a million Lisas out there, millions of people who need assistance. Don't deny them a chance to get out of poverty and to have help when they need it.

H.R. 3102 is a dream killer. It's un-American.

A few minutes ago, we pledged to this flag behind me. Now it's time to live up to the responsibilities in that pledge of justice for all, not just for a few.

H.R. 3102 is a bad bill. It needs defeating.

DON'T CUT SNAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about this heartless and mean-spirited attempt by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to cut \$40 billion from the SNAP program—the food stamp program—that ensures that children, seniors, and poor Americans can put food on the table.

Earlier this year, I participated in a food stamp challenge. We agreed for a period of 1 week to limit our expenditure for food to \$4.50 a day. That's about the average amount that a food stamp recipient receives for food. And so trying to eat on \$4.50 a day was a mind expander and an eye-opener for me because it helped me see how fortunate I was to not be one of the many millions of people who rely on food stamps for their nutrition.

During that week that I was on that food stamp challenge, I went around to a number of food pantries where people were lined up, White and Black, Hispanic and Asian, awaiting the food truck or the tractor-trailer to get there loaded with food so they could get some of it. People lined up several hours before the pantry actually opened just to get some food.

So I can assure you that there are many people out there. And I spoke with many of them. I spoke with one woman who worked three part-time jobs that pay minimum wage. She was trying to take care of a family with that, and was still eligible and needed to have those food stamps.

And so people have lost their jobs and have been offered and accepted new jobs after this economic meltdown caused by Wall Street. People lost jobs. They have accepted part-time jobs—cobbling a few part-time jobs together to try to make ends meet for the entire family. And they need those food stamps.

□ 1100

But what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle plan on doing is cutting \$40 billion for this next year, 2014. They want to cut \$40 billion out of the budget.

The budget is a statement of our values. If you can give farmers crop subsidies—\$15 billion, \$20 billion per year—

and then, by congressional legislation, hide the identity of the recipients of those crop subsidy payments that you, the taxpayer, give to the insurance companies on behalf of the farmers; then what you do, you give the insurance companies, you offset their administrative and operating cost in operating that program, we pay them billions of dollars a year. So, as it ends up, over \$100 billion in a 10-year period, crop insurance for people who don't need it. And we're going to cut food stamps today \$40 billion? That's not the values that America stands for. I will be voting against that legislation.

NO MORE STEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in my district, California 14, we have about 4,000 families who are on food stamps. But some of my colleagues have thousands and thousands more; yet they somehow feel like crusaders and heroes when they vote to cut food stamps.

Some of these same Members travel to foreign countries under the guise of official business. They dine at lavish restaurants, eating steak, vodka, and even caviar. They receive money to do this. That's right. They don't pay out of pocket for these meals. Let me give you a few examples.

One Member was given \$127.41 a day for food on his trip to Argentina. He probably had a fair amount of steak. Another Member was given \$3,588 for food and lodging during a 6-day trip to Russia. He probably drank a fair amount of vodka and probably even had some caviar. That particular Member has 21,000 food stamp recipients in his district. One of those people who is on food stamps could live a year on what this Congressman spent on food and lodging for 6 days.

Another 20 Members made a trip to Dublin, Ireland. They got \$166 a day for food. These Members didn't pay a dime. They received \$50, \$100, almost \$200 for a single meal only for themselves. Yet for them, the idea of helping fellow Americans spend less than \$5 a day makes their skin crawl. The faces of families of veterans, of farmers, of the disabled, of the working poor are not visible to them, not even when they are their own constituents.

Last week, a man named Ron Shaich wrote in an article on his LinkedIn page about food stamps. Ron is the founder, chairman and CEO of Panera Bread. In his article, Ron admitted that, despite wanting to fight poverty and hunger in America, he really didn't know what it was like to be truly hungry. So this week, Ron is taking the SNAP Challenge. The millionaire food mogul is living on \$4.50 a day.

I've taken the SNAP Challenge in the past, and I can tell you it is a horrible experience. You think about food constantly. You are always hungry. But those on food stamps live on \$4.50 every

day, not for one week, for long into their future. That is soul crushing.

Historically, food stamps have been part of the farm bill. It's that same bill that 26 corporate farmers—who remain nameless—get \$1 million each in subsidies meant for real farmers. The taxpayers are giving \$7 billion per year to large agribusiness; yet Republicans feel SNAP programs cost us too much money. They want to cut it.

Mr. Speaker, I can stand here and say that my point is about saving food stamps from cuts—that's true. But my larger point is about us as a country, as a society, as neighbors. I'm a Member of the least productive Congress in the history of this country; I'm ashamed of that. To be honest, if the Federal Government shut down for a couple of weeks, as we keep hearing, would Americans even notice? When a government of the people or for the people becomes a government in spite of the people, then who are we really serving? If we refuse to take care of those who are the most vulnerable at a tiny fraction of the cost of, say, our defense budget, don't we cease to be true public servants?

Ron Shaich is putting himself in the worn-out shoes of 48 million fellow Americans. I'm ready to do the same again. I wonder how many of my Republican colleagues would want to cut food stamps if they had taken the SNAP Challenge. After all, that means no more steak, no more caviar or vodka. Based on these Members' eating habits, I wonder if they could survive.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Bishop J.W. Macklin, Glad Tidings Church, Hayward, California, offered the following prayer:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has led us thus far along the way. For this land of freedom and the promise of America, we are thankful.

In the face of daunting tasks, monumental and complex challenges, grant this, the 113th Congress, Your sovereign wisdom. Allow this august body, like eagles, to soar above partisan disagreements and personal agendas. Grant the Members of the House of Representatives strength, that they may run for those whose legs are weak, and give them courage that they may